

## Message Text

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61-L  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 OES-06

L-03 INR-07 CIAE-00 NEA-10 EB-07 DODE-00 /080 W  
----- 008776

R 081600Z OCT 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8499  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1627

E.O. 11652:GDS  
TAGS: EFIN, MA, US  
SUBJECT: CHARGE'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER OCT 7 AND NASA ISSUE

REFS: (A) TANANARIVE 1622, (B) TANANARIVE 1432

1. SUMMARY. CHARGE'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER PRODUCED NO NEW INFORMATION RE EXPULSIONS. HOWEVER, NASA ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT CLEAR IF HE HAD CONSULTED PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA BEFOREHAND. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST TO SEE HIM FOLLOWING SEPT 22 EXPULSIONS OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL, FOREIGN MINISTER SUDDENLY SUMMONED ME TO MFA LATE OCT 7 AFTER REF A HAD BEEN SENT. I USED OCCASION TO (A) ASSURE HIM THAT, DESPITE ALLEGATIONS, EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARE NOT ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES WHICH INTERFERE IN MADAGASCAR'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, (B) SUGGEST THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE FOR BOTH SIDES IF MFA HAD INFORMED ME QUIETLY OF ALLEGED CIRCUMSTANCES SO WE COULD HAVE INVESTIGATED THEM FIRST, AND (C) REFRESH OUR EARLIER TOUR D'HORIZON (REF B).

3. ALTHOUGH CONVERSATION LASTED HALF HOUR, FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING NEW TO ADD RE EXPULSIONS OR ANY OTHER SUBJECT EXCEPT NASA. I REFERRED TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR'S RECENT CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA (REF A), BUT IT WAS NOT CLEAR IF FOREIGN MINISTER HAD BEEN  
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APPRISED OF ITS SUBSTANCE. NONETHELESS, HE IMPLIED THAT

NASA ISSUE IS THE FUNDAMENTAL STUMBLING BLOCK IN US-GDRM RELATIONS. HE INSISTED THAT UNTIL WE REFUSED TO PAY BACK RENT IN JULY 1975 THERE WAS NO BASIC DIFFICULTY IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. OTHER DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US, HE SAID, CAME ABOUT AFTERWARD AND PRIMARILY HINGED ON NASA ISSUE. I SAID THAT RATSIRAKA ORIGINALLY RAISED QUESTION OF BACK RENT IN 1973, THAT WE HAD BEEN ON VERGE OF AGREEMENT IN 1974 UNTIL GDRM SOUGHT TO REVISE THE ACCEPTED DRAFT AGREEMENT, AND THAT THE DIFFICULTIES BEGAN WITH RATSIRAKA'S ACCESSION TO POWER IN JUNE 1975 WHEN HE CLOSED NASA STATION LESS THAN ONE MONTH LATER.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER REFERRED BACK TO MY REPORT OF RATSIRAKA-SCHARAFF CONVERSATION AND SAID HE SAW NO REASON WHY WE COULD NOT REACH SOME AGREEMENT ON QUESTION OF RENT FROM 1973 ON. I SAID THAT I WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, BUT GDRM HAD NOT YET REPLIED TO OUR DECEMBER 1975. NOTE. HE SIDESTEPED QUESTION OF GDRM REPLY, REPEATED THAT MATTER OF BACK RENT IS STILL AN ISSUE, AND SAID THAT HE FELT THAT EACH SIDE COULD MAKE CONCESSIONS SO THAT THIS ISSUE COULD BE CLOSED. I SAID THAT PERHAPS WHEN HE RETURNS FROM UNGA (HE DEPARTS SOMETIME THIS WEEKEND), WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO RESUME DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. COMMENT: AS NOTED ABOVE, I WAS UNABLE TO JUDGE IF HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH RATSIRAKA. NO FURTHER COMMENTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE REF A.SHEINBAUM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPULSION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TANANA01627  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 TANANARIVE 1622, 76 TANANARIVE 1432  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by RowellEO>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHARGE'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER OCT 7 AND NASA ISSUE  
**TAGS:** EFIN, MA, US, NASA, (RAKOTOMAVO, BRUNO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006